

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 723

By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to recognize Head Coach John Calipari and the University of Memphis men's basketball team upon completing an extraordinary season.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the University of Memphis men's basketball team is one such estimable sports team that achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2005-2006 season, establishing a school record of thirty-three wins against only four losses on their way to claiming the Conference USA regular season and tournament titles and advancing to the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Elite Eight; and

WHEREAS, the University of Memphis men's basketball team rolled through the Conference USA Tournament, prevailing over Tulane (75-56) and Houston (68-54) to advance to the championship game; the Tigers completed their perfect tournament record by defeating the University of Alabama-Birmingham by the score of 57-46 to win the Conference USA Tournament Title and an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Tigers defeated such non-conference powerhouse teams as UCLA, Gonzaga, Cincinnati, Alabama, Providence, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Ole Miss, Purdue, and Tennessee, among others; and

WHEREAS, attaining the school's first Number 1 Seed in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, Memphis defeated Oral Roberts 94-78 in the opening round of the tournament; and

WHEREAS, defeating Bucknell 72-56, the Tigers pounced on Bradley in the Sweet Sixteen by the score of 80-64, gaining a measure of revenge for a 1957 NIT loss, to advance to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament for only the fourth time in Memphis basketball history; and

WHEREAS, the players of the University of Memphis men's basketball team are Andre Allen, Antonio Anderson, Rodney Carney, Kareem Cooper, Joey Dorsey, Chris Douglas-Roberts, Robert Dozier, Travis Long, Chance McGrady, Simplicie Njoya, Jared Sandridge, Almamy Thiero, Clyde Wade, Darius Washington, Jr., Shawne Williams, and Waki Williams; and

WHEREAS, the third leading scorer in school history, Rodney Carney, a dual-threat player who can drain treys and drive to the rim, was named Conference USA Player of the Year and All-American; and

WHEREAS, Darius Washington, Jr., averaging 13.3 points per game, led Memphis with 109 assists, and was named to the 2006 All-Conference USA First Team; and

WHEREAS, Sophomore Joey Dorsey blossomed in the post and led the nation in rebounds per minute while Andre Allen, Memphis's spirited point guard, exploded in post season play with amazing performances against Oral Roberts and Bucknell; and

WHEREAS, during his six years as head coach of the University of Memphis Tigers, John Calipari has compiled a record of 148 wins and 59 losses, and he was named the 2005-2006 Conference USA Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a tremendous recruiter, Coach Calipari assembled an amazing freshman class including such phenoms as Conference USA Freshman of the Year Shawne Williams, Kareem Cooper, Chris Douglas-Roberts, who has a sweet floater, all-around sensation Antonio Anderson, who burned Cincinnati with twenty-seven points, and swingman Robert Dozier, who is equally adept at scoring and rebounding; and

WHEREAS, re-establishing the University of Memphis as one of the premier collegiate basketball programs in the country, John Calipari is a nationally renowned coach with an unflagging commitment to excellence and an avid supporter of all things Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Coach Calipari's able leadership, the University of Memphis men's basketball team benefited from the talents of assistant coaches Tony Barbee, Derek Kellogg, and John Robic and Coordinator of Basketball Operations, Milt Wagner; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible an extraordinary basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the University of Memphis men's basketball team upon an outstanding 2005-2006 season; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate head coach John Calipari and the members of the University of Memphis men's basketball team on an extraordinary season, commend them upon winning the Conference USA Regular Season and Tournament Titles and for making it to the Elite Eight of the Big Dance, and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.